MARVEL

CIVIL WAR II

CHOOSING SIDES 4

THE PUNISHER · POWER PACK · NICK FURY

THE RETURN OF
POWER PACK
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CHOOSING SIDES

EARTH'S HEROES PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE.

IRON MAN WARNED AGAINST USING ULYSSES' POWERS AGAIN, BELIEVING THAT THE FUTURE MUST BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ITS COURSE. CAPTAIN MARVEL DISAGREED, ARGUING THAT SAVING LIVES IS WORTH THE RISK.

BUT ULYSSES' NEXT VISION WAS A BIG ONE—A VISION OF THE HULK DESTROYING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE. CAPTAIN MARVEL AND IRON MAN MADE A DEAL TO CONFRONT BRUCE BANNER, BUT BOTH WERE SHOCKED WHEN HAWKEYE ASSASSINATED BANNER ON THE SPOT.

AS TENSIONS RISE, EACH HERO WILL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE: PROTECT THE FUTURE OR CHANGE THE FUTURE?

THE PUNISHER

WRITER
CHUCK BROWN

ARTIST
CHRIS VISIONS

COLOR ARTIST
MEGAN WILSON

EDITOR
CHRIS ROBINSON

POWER PACK

WRITER
JOHN ALLISON

ARTIST
ROSI KÄMPE

COLOR ARTIST
MEGAN WILSON

ASST. EDITOR
CHARLES BEACHAM

EDITOR
WIL MOSS

NICK FURY

"POST PROLOGUE" PART FOUR

NICK FURY WAS RECENTLY DEPLOYED TO TAKE DOWN A ROGUE A ROGUE HYDRA CELL THAT, ACCORDING TO ULYSSES' PREMONITION, WOULD BRING ABOUT THE END OF S.H.I.E.L.D. IF NOT STOPPED. BUT NICK QUICKLY LEARNED THAT THE TRUE THREAT LIES WITHIN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S RANKS. FAKING HIS OWN DEATH, FURY TRACKED DOWN THE CELL'S LEADER, WHO PUT UP A FIGHT AND MANAGED TO GET AWAY. AND NOW, THE CASE HAS GONE COLD...

WRITER/ARTIST
DECLAN SHALVEY

COLOR ARTIST
JORDIE BELLAIRE

ASST. EDITOR
CHARLES BEACHAM

EDITOR
WIL MOSS

LETTERER & PRODUCTION
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES

COVER ARTISTS
JIM CHEUNG & JUSTIN PONSOR
AND DECLAN SHALVEY
& JORDIE BELLAIRE

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
GURIHIRU

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER
DAN BUCKLEY

EXEC. PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

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HORIZON LABS
MEDICAL BRANCH.
UPSTATE NEW YORK.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I MEAN, STEALING THIS ZODIAC VIRUS AIN'T LIKE KNOCKING OVER A BANK. WHAT WE'RE DOING IS THE KINDA STUFF THAT MAKES GUYS IN CAPES BURST THROUGH WALLS AND THROW BUSES. AND PEOPLE ARE EVEN SAYING THEY GOT A FREAK THAT SEES THE FUTURE.
I HEARD THE TASKMASTER GOT BUSTED FOR MURDER BEFORE HE EVEN STEPPED FOOT OUT OF HIS LITTLE HIDEOUT TO DO THE JOB.
JUST SHUT UP AND CARRY THE CASE. WITH THE MONEY TOMBSTONE IS PAYING US, YOU CAN BUY YOURSELF A SET OF STONES.
TOMBSTONE'S THE BUYER? YOU SURE HE CAN PAY? WORD ON THE STREET IS HE'S BURNING THROUGH CASH TO TAKE OUT THE BULLETPROOF BLACK DUDE AND THE CHINESE KARATE GUY.
IT'S KUNG FU, NOT KARATE, AND HE'S A WHITE GUY.
YOU'RE KIDDING?! REALLY?
SHUT UP, YOU KNUCKLE-DRAGGING GERMS.
JUST DO YOUR JOBS AND WATCH OUR BACKS IN CASE SOME CAPES AND MASKS SHOW. OKAY?

YOU SEEM ON EDGE, MOUTH. RELAX, WE'VE DONE JOBS LIKE THIS A DOZEN TIMES. AND YOUR GIFT OF GAB HELPED BROKER THEM ALL.
YEAH, BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE HEROES THAT COULD SEE THE FUTURE BEFORE.
LOOK AROUND, THIS PLACE HAS ALREADY BEEN HIT. WHEN OR IF WE COME UP ON THE PSYCHIC'S RADAR IT WOULD JUST GET IGNORED. THEY'LL THINK IT'S AN OLD EVENT, LIKE AN ECHO.
DON'T WORRY, CALM THE HELL DOWN AND JUST FOCUS ON THE PLAN AND THE PRIZE.
OKAY. RIGHT. THE PLAN. SO THIS STRAIN OF THE ZODIAC VIRUS IS EXTREMELY VOLATILE. WE CAN'T BLOW THE VAULT OR JUST CARRY THE STUFF BY HAND. HENCE THE GYRO-STABILIZING CASE AND THE "SPECIAL" KEY.
CAUTION
TOMBSTONE'S BUYING SOME NASTY STUFF. I'VE SOLD AND SET OFF BIOWEAPONS THAT KILL IN WAYS YOU CAN'T IMAGINE, BUT THIS VIRUS TAKES THE THRONE.
SHOULDN'T WE HAVE ON ONE OF THOSE SUITS?
HAZMAT SUITS? NO, YOU'D HAVE TO INGEST THIS STUFF TO DO ANY HARM. BUT AFTER MY BOYS DO SOME TINKERING IN THE LAB, THIS BABY WILL BE AIRBORNE.
AND EXPENSIVE. AND IN HIGH DEMAND.
I GOT THE KEY.
YEAH, OPEN WIDE, SWEETHEART.
ACCESS

AHH, BEAUTIFUL.
GIVE ME THE CASE.
WHERE'S SAM AND THE CASE?
HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME.
GO FIND HIM AND THE CASE. WE CAN'T MOVE THE VIRUS WITHOUT IT!
JASPER, PULL THE VAN INTO POSITION.
JASPER?!
JASPER, YOU THERE?!

HEY, I FOUND THE CASE! WHAT-- WHAT'S THAT ON IT?
IS THAT--?
IT'S BLOOD.
YOU TOOK A MAN'S LIFE.
THEN YOU TOOK HIS HAND.
SO I'M TAKING YOURS.
NO.
WAIT!

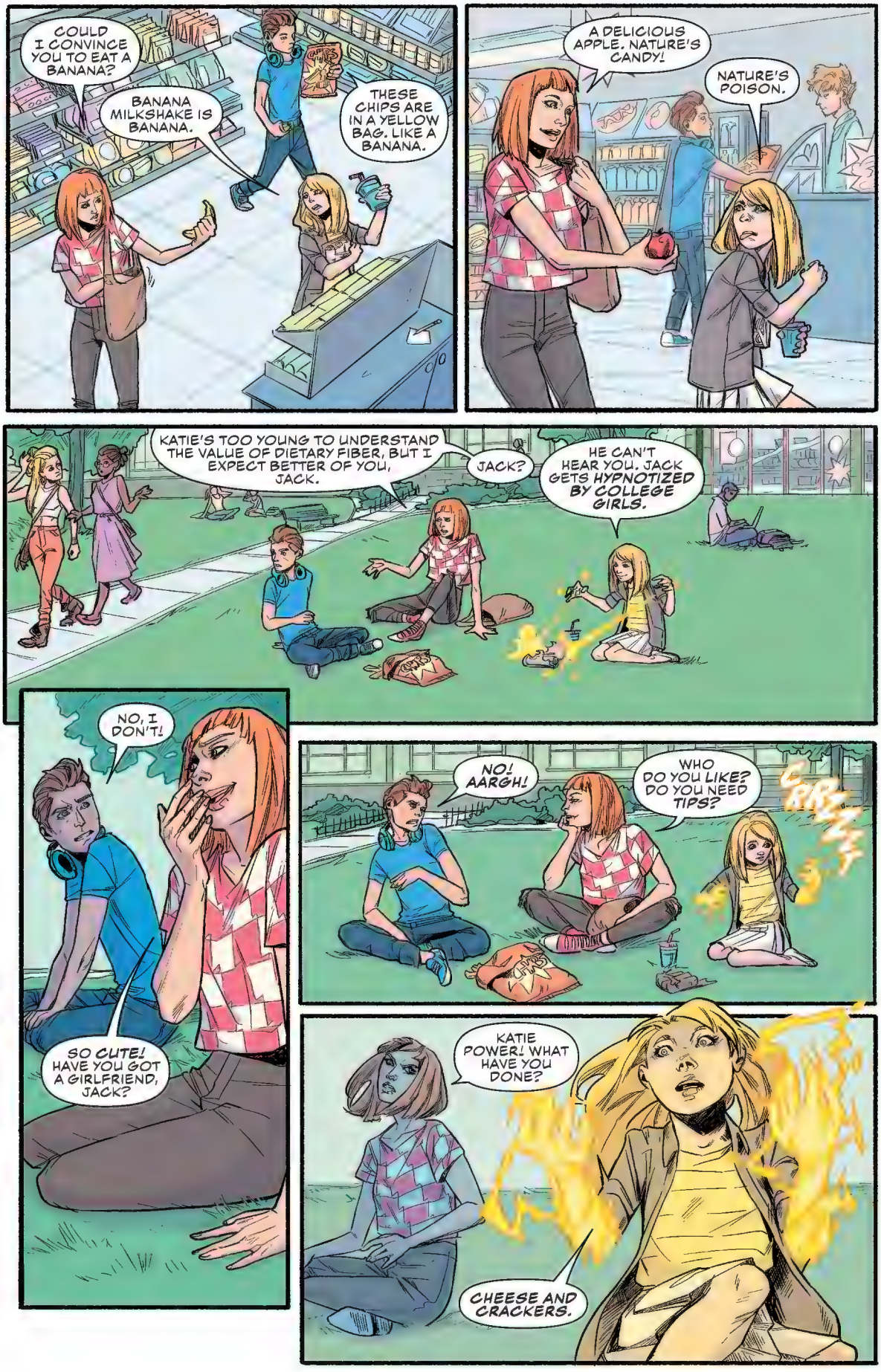
AHHHHRRRRAAAAUUUGHHH!
SOMETHING'S GOT 'EM, WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
CALM DOWN, JUST STICK TO THE PLAN!
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM MILLIONS!
IT'S ONE OF *THEM!* THE *FREAK* SAW US COMING!

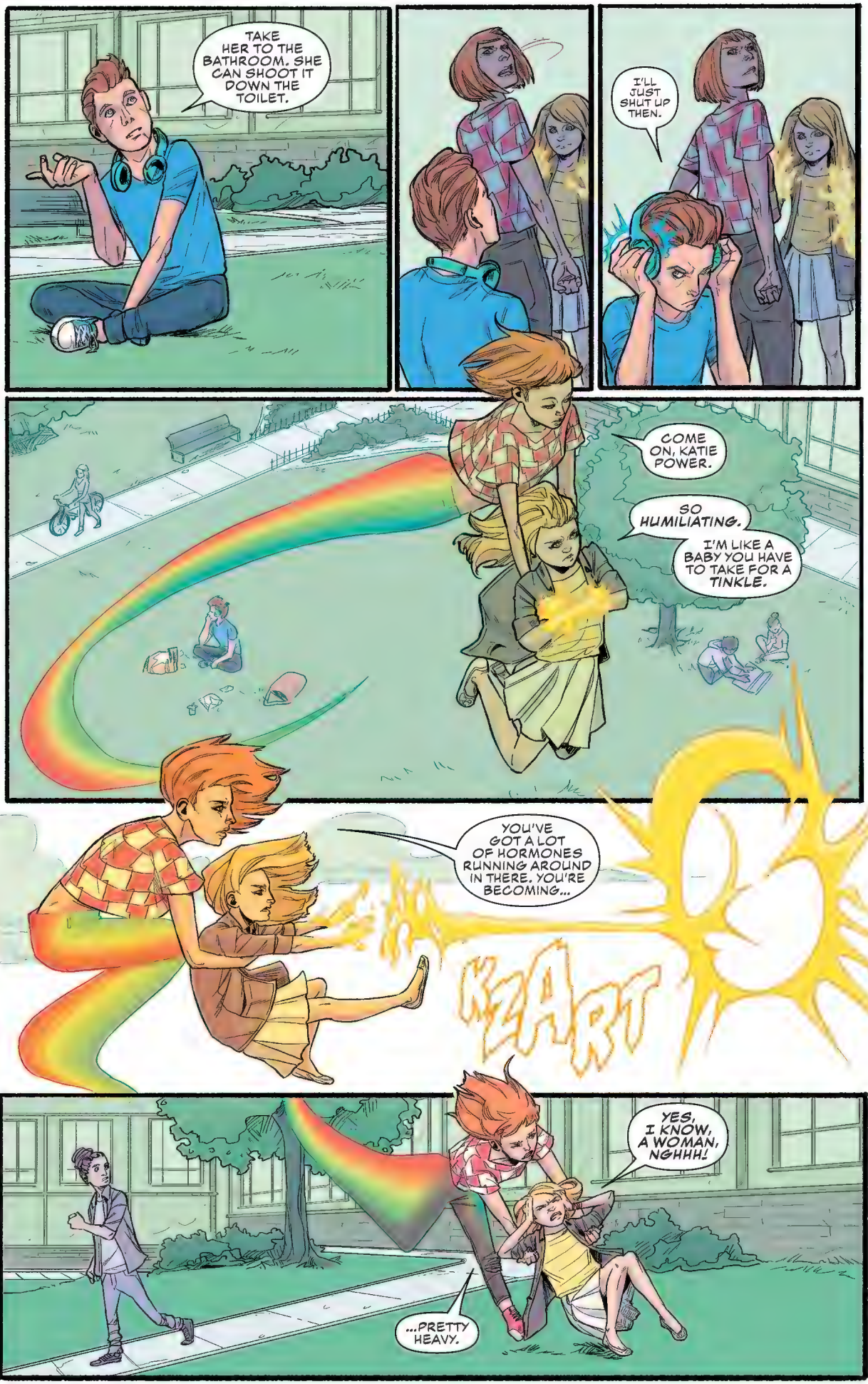
THIS CAN STILL WORK.
I'LL JUST CARRY IT. I'LL JUST--

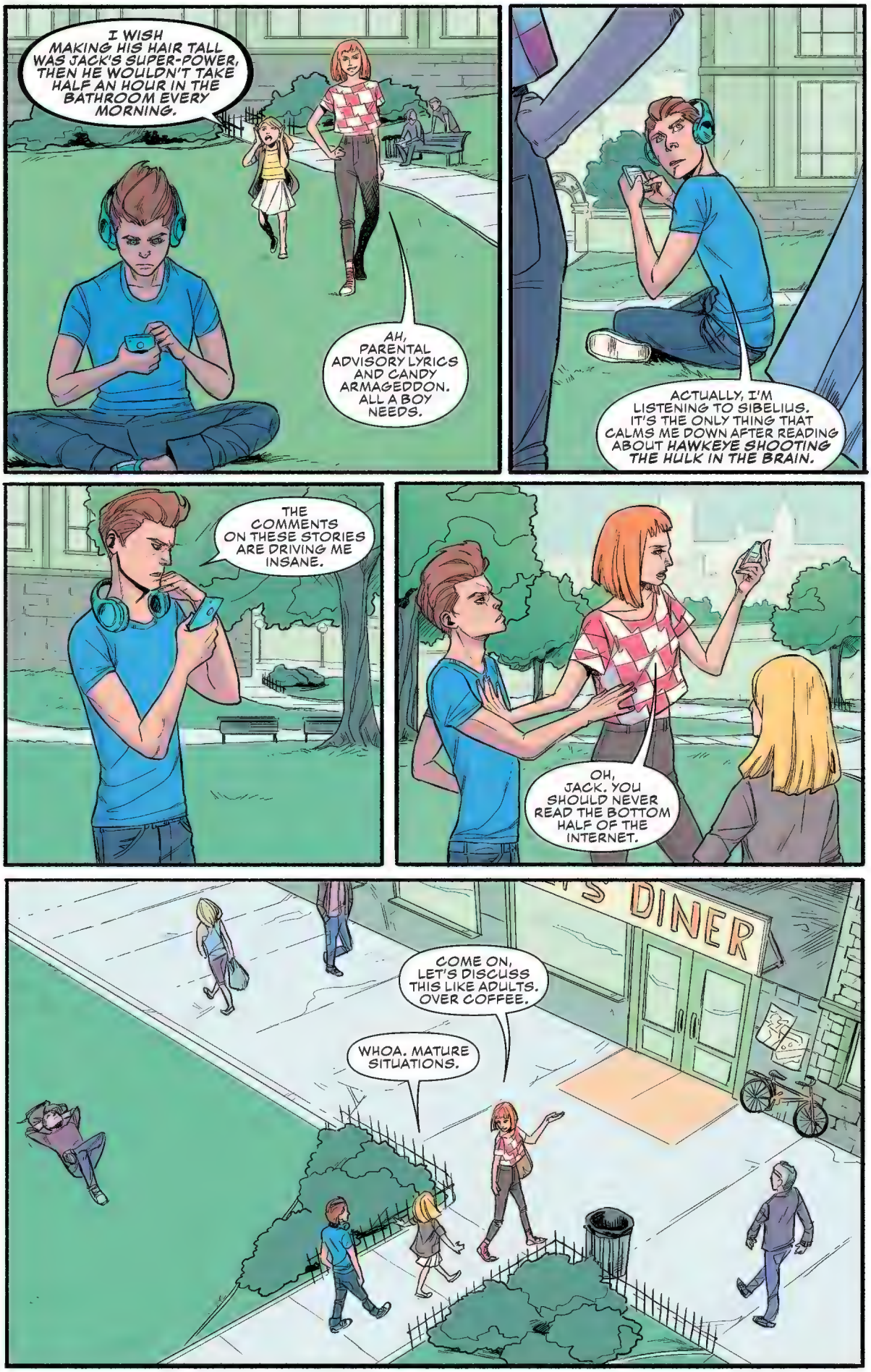
KKRRSSH
GLUG
OH, GOD, NO.
THE PUNISHER.
HOW DID YOU KNOW? MY PLAN WAS--
YOUR PLAN WAS PREDICTABLE.
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST SCAVENGER TO TRY THIS?
ONE BATCH

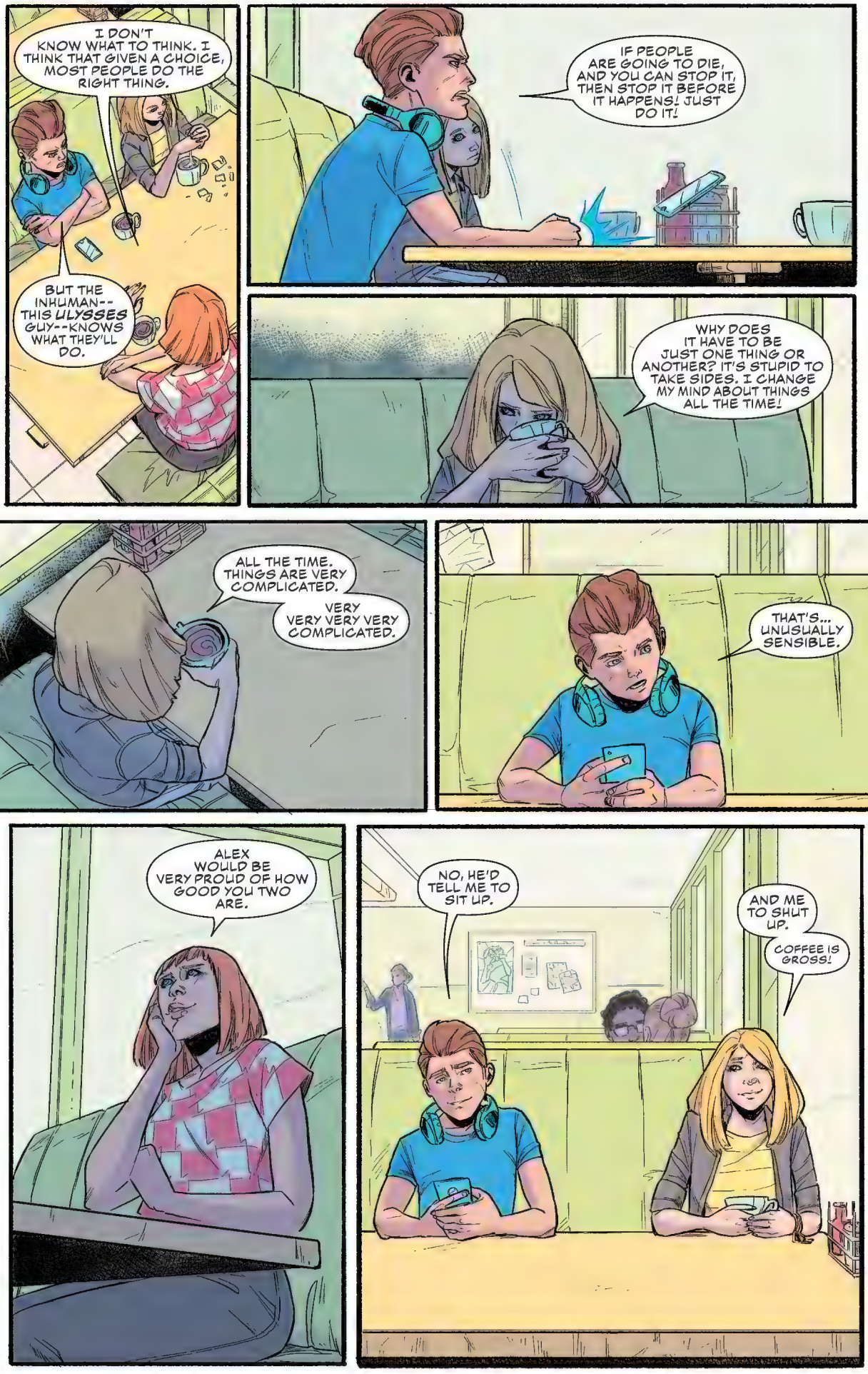
THE SCUM THOUGHT THEY FOUND A WAY TO GO UNPUNISHED.
THE MURDERERS, THIEVES, AND PSYCHOS THOUGHT THEY'D FOUND A LOOPHOLE--
--A CRACK IN THE SYSTEM.
I'M HERE TO FILL THE CRACKS.
THE END.

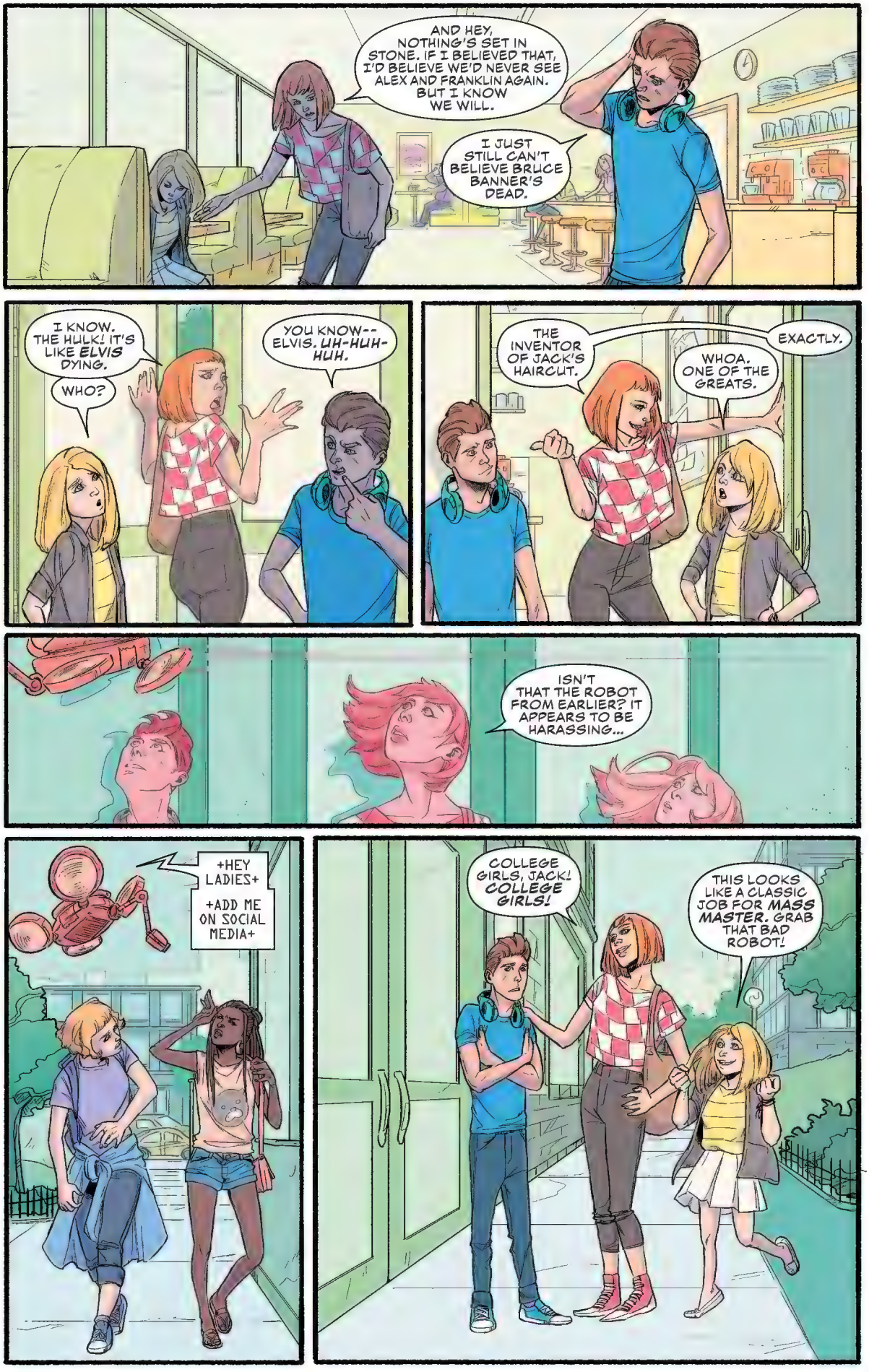
GIFTED ALIEN ABILITIES BY A DYING KYMELLIAN EMISSARY, THE POWER KIDS--ALEX, JULIE, JACK AND KATIE--FOUGHT THREATS BOTH EXTRATERRESTRIAL AND CLOSE TO HOME. JOINED BY THE YOUNG FRANKLIN RICHARDS, THEY WERE--
POWER PACK
BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY? CLASSY, RIGHT? JUST STANDING HERE MAKES US SMARTER!
YOU'RE ONLY 16, JULIE. THIS FEELS LIKE A LOT OF SCHOOL YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO YET.
JACK, C'MON, PRETEND TO ENJOY VISITING ME! I MEAN--
--JUST LOOK AT THOSE BROS OVER THERE, THEY'VE BUILT A ROBOT! THEIR INTELLIGENCE IS PROBABLY OFF THE CHARTS.
JULIE, IF YOU LOVE SCHOOL SO MUCH, WHY DON'T YOU MARRY IT?
MAYBE I WILL, KATIE.
BOOOOM. BLEW YOUR MINDS.
I'M HUNGRY.


COULD I CONVINCE YOU TO EAT A BANANA?
BANANA MILKSHAKE IS BANANA.
THESE CHIPS ARE IN A YELLOW BAG. LIKE A BANANA.
A DELICIOUS APPLE. NATURE'S CANDY!
NATURE'S POISON.
KATIE'S TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF DIETARY FIBER, BUT I EXPECT BETTER OF YOU, JACK.
JACK?
HE CAN'T HEAR YOU. JACK GETS HYPNOTIZED BY COLLEGE GIRLS.
NO, I DON'T!
SO CUTE! HAVE YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND, JACK?
NO! AARGH!
WHO DO YOU LIKE? DO YOU NEED TIPS?
KATIE POWER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
CHEESE AND CRACKERS.


TAKE HER TO THE BATHROOM. SHE CAN SHOOT IT DOWN THE TOILET.
I'LL JUST SHUT UP THEN.
COME ON, KATIE POWER.
SO HUMILIATING.
I'M LIKE A BABY YOU HAVE TO TAKE FOR A TINKLE.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF HORMONES RUNNING AROUND IN THERE. YOU'RE BECOMING...
KZAAT
YES, I KNOW, A WOMAN, NGHHH!
...PRETTY HEAVY.


I WISH MAKING HIS HAIR TALL WAS JACK'S SUPER-POWER, THEN HE WOULDN'T TAKE HALF AN HOUR IN THE BATHROOM EVERY MORNING.
AH, PARENTAL ADVISORY LYRICS AND CANDY ARMAGEDDON. ALL A BOY NEEDS.
ACTUALLY, I'M LISTENING TO SIBELIUS. IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT CALMS ME DOWN AFTER READING ABOUT HAWKEYE SHOOTING THE HULK IN THE BRAIN.
THE COMMENTS ON THESE STORIES ARE DRIVING ME INSANE.
OH, JACK. YOU SHOULD NEVER READ THE BOTTOM HALF OF THE INTERNET.
DINER
COME ON, LET'S DISCUSS THIS LIKE ADULTS. OVER COFFEE.
WHOA. MATURE SITUATIONS.

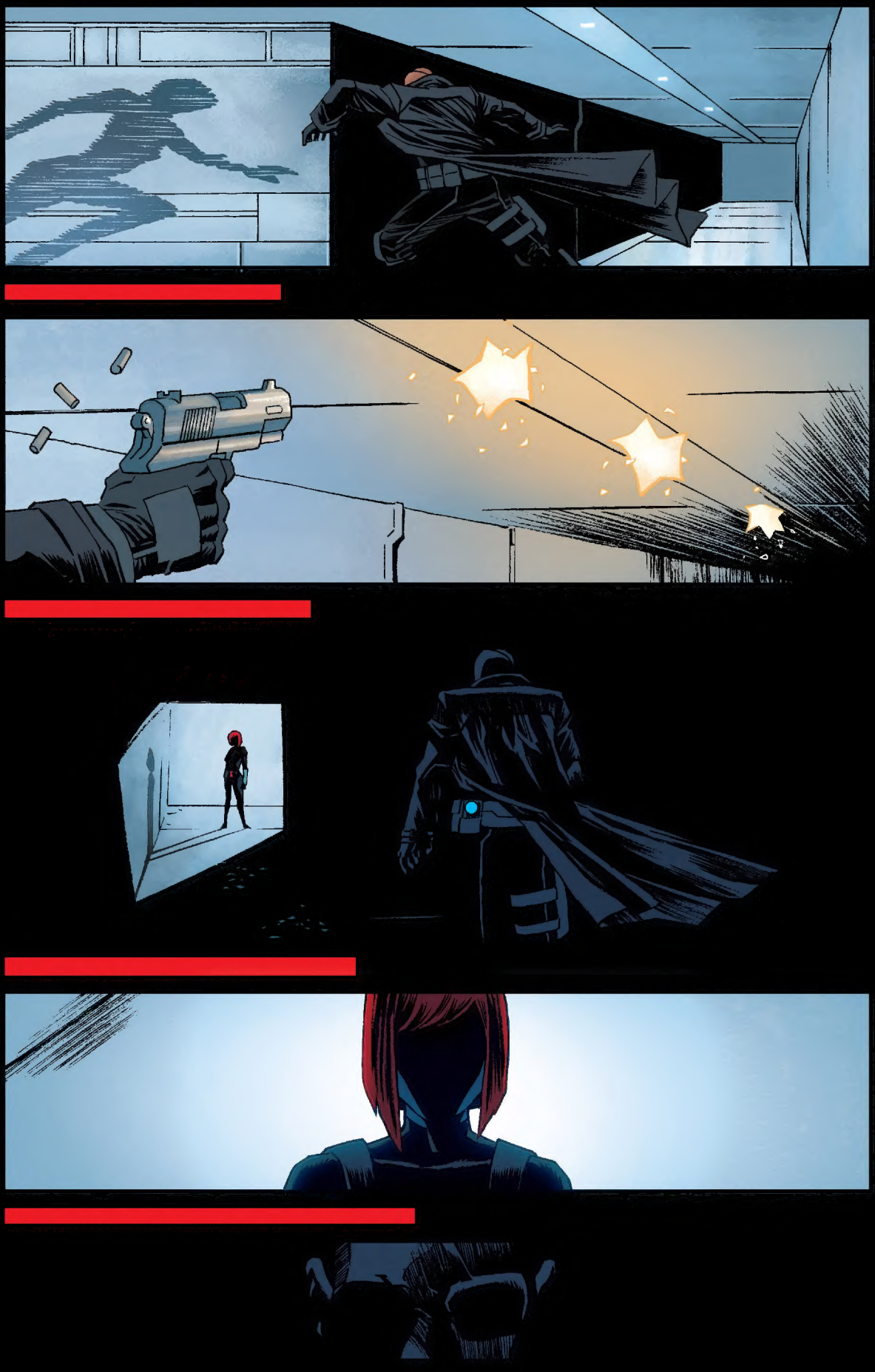

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK. I THINK THAT GIVEN A CHOICE, MOST PEOPLE DO THE RIGHT THING.
BUT THE INHUMAN--THIS *ULYSSES* GUY--KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO.
IF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE, AND YOU CAN STOP IT, THEN STOP IT BEFORE IT HAPPENS! JUST DO IT!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE JUST ONE THING OR ANOTHER? IT'S STUPID TO TAKE SIDES. I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT THINGS ALL THE TIME!
ALL THE TIME. THINGS ARE VERY COMPLICATED.
VERY VERY VERY VERY COMPLICATED.
THAT'S... UNUSUALLY SENSIBLE.
ALEX WOULD BE VERY PROUD OF HOW GOOD YOU TWO ARE.
NO, HE'D TELL ME TO SIT UP.
AND ME TO SHUT UP.
COFFEE IS GROSS!


AND HEY, NOTHING'S SET IN STONE. IF I BELIEVED THAT, I'D BELIEVE WE'D NEVER SEE ALEX AND FRANKLIN AGAIN. BUT I KNOW WE WILL.
I JUST STILL CAN'T BELIEVE BRUCE BANNER'S DEAD.
I KNOW. THE HULK! IT'S LIKE ELVIS DYING.
WHO?
YOU KNOW-- ELVIS. UH-HUH-HUH.
THE INVENTOR OF JACK'S HAIRCUT.
EXACTLY.
WHOA. ONE OF THE GREATS.
ISN'T THAT THE ROBOT FROM EARLIER? IT APPEARS TO BE HARASSING...
+HEY LADIES+
+ADD ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA+
COLLEGE GIRLS, JACK! COLLEGE GIRLS!
THIS LOOKS LIKE A CLASSIC JOB FOR MASS MASTER. GRAB THAT BAD ROBOT!

MY COSTUME IS KIND OF...Y'KNOW... TIGHT.
JACK DOESN'T WANT COLLEGE GIRLS TO SEE HIS BUTT-BUTT.
IT'S A VERY NICE BUTT, HONEY.
AUGH! DON'T TELL ME THAT!
KNOCK IT OFF!
+BUZZ-KILL, MAN+
WHAT A MAGNIFICENT CLOUD, CIRROSTRATUS, I BELIEVE!
SUBTLE. LOVING YOUR WORK.
CIRROSTRATUS-- THE DEADLIEST CLOUD, OR SO I HEAR!
WE SHOULD TOTALLY DO THIS MORE OFTEN.
I MADE IT CRASH INTO A TELEPHONE POLE. IT SEEMS PRETTY... DEAD?
THE END.

S.H.I.E.L.D. BASE (OGMA).

UNKNOWN LOCATION. 23:00 HRS.



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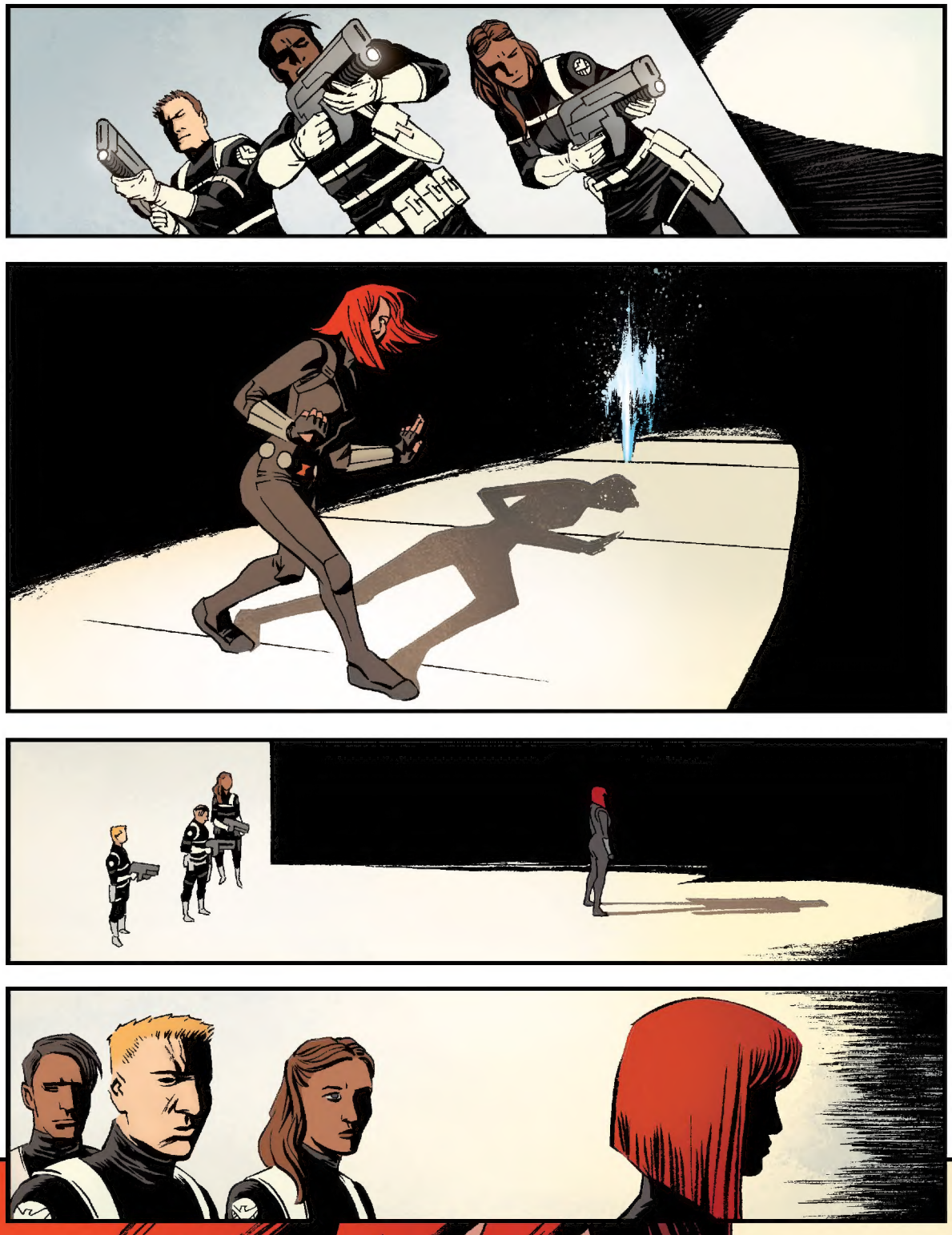
TO BE
CONCLUDED!

NEXT ISSUE:

ALPHA FLIGHT

COLLEEN WING

NICK FURY